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Chairman: Mr. Maitland ..... (South Africa)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 78: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A56/863; A/C.4/57/L.8)

1. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) observed that there had been a tangible improvement in the core peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations had emerged restructured and strengthened in many areas, enhancing its ability to plan and conduct peacekeeping operations and presumably giving it a better idea of the conditions for success.

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had been grappling with such basic conditions as political support, rapid deployment and sound peace-building strategy, all of which involved Member States. It should continue to foster greater cooperation among the Security Council, the troop contributing countries and the United Nations system as a whole, and should monitor the implementation of its own recommendations.

3. Certain issues were of particular concern to Bangladesh. The political will of Member States to support peacekeeping at all stages was crucial: often, when peacekeeping operations had faltered, the political consensus in the Security Council had been wanting or too long in coming.

4. Furthermore, rapid deployment required well-trained and well-equipped troops; yet so few Member States regularly contributed troops. It was becoming more difficult for the Organization to secure the necessary forces, and the perceived lack of United Nations recognition of the dependable troop-contributing countries was certainly part of the problem. Bangladesh's commitment had always been strong, and it currently had 5,500 peacekeepers in 10 ongoing missions.

5. Another matter of concern was that the peace-building strategy needed in order to achieve the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants so crucial in the post-conflict period had in more than one instance been compromised by uncertainty as to the funding arrangements, which should be made more secure.

6. **Mr. Suanes Flexas** (Cuba) said that despite the complexity of the situations demanding the deployment of peacekeeping operations, the norms of international law must never be bent, especially the Charter principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, and of non-interference in their internal affairs. The traditional standards for peacekeeping operations also remained valid: consent of the parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in self-defence, clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, and secure financing. All those basic ideas bore repeating, especially when there was talk of new concepts like so-called humanitarian interventions, which violated the principles of sovereignty and non-interference.

7. The United Nations must be able to have at its disposal dynamic mechanisms allowing a peacekeeping mission to become operational — in complete transparency and in strict observance of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter — as soon as possible after the decision to deploy it. However, Cuba shared the concerns over the delayed reimbursement of States which contributed troops and equipment, especially where developing countries were concerned. An end must be put to the practice of siphoning off funds from the peacekeeping budget to pay for regular budget shortfalls.

8. Peacekeeping operations could not be considered definitive solutions to conflicts, which always stemmed from economic, political and social problems. Until the underlying causes were addressed, there would be a vicious circle of conflicts requiring the re-establishment of peace. Peace could not be separated from development. One of the greatest challenges to the United Nations was to allocate resources according to the legitimate demands of the vast majority of Member States and to use them where they were most needed.

9. A troubling discrimination could be perceived in the Security Council's deliberations and decisions on deployment of peacekeeping operations, the result being that there were privileged areas of the world, forgotten areas and off-limit areas. As long as that was the case, a world at peace would be a utopia.

10. **Mr. Kabtani** (Tunisia) said that, while his delegation welcomed the ceaseless efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to deal with urgent and complex situations, such efforts in and of themselves could not guarantee the success of peacekeeping operations unless accompanied by the

appropriate adaptation on the part of all other actors and partners. Tunisia favoured further discussions regarding the mechanism for consultation among the Secretariat, the Security Council, and the contributing countries, and urged avoidance of a selective approach that tended to limit participation in such discussions to large contingent contributors.

11. His delegation viewed the collaboration of the United Nations with regional organizations as being of primary importance, especially those in Africa. The African countries were determined to assume their responsibilities by tackling the underlying causes of conflicts. The support of the United Nations and the international community, however, was also required in order to create optimal conditions for success, especially with regard to the African Union and its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

12. Tunisia had participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations since the 1960s, and it intended to continue that policy.

13. **Mr. Fragelli** (Brazil) observed that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, having reviewed its procedures and adapted them to the new world situation and the challenges of increasingly complex peacekeeping operations, had instituted a thoroughgoing reform, which had involved changing its management culture, strengthening its strategic planning capacity and focusing on rapid response and deployment. The managerial reforms in the Department should strengthen the latter's relationship and consultations with troop-contributing countries, allow it to respond more quickly and adequately to the needs of the personnel in the field, particularly as regarded health and security, and foster greater dialogue with other Secretariat bodies. Cooperation between the Special Committee and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations would be particularly useful, and would no doubt reinforce the growing exchange of information and ideas between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries, which was already yielding a better understanding of the problems of each mission and suggesting possible alternative action.

14. Special attention should be given to reimbursement of the troop-contributing countries, since delayed payments to developing countries limited their ability to contribute personnel. His delegation was awaiting with interest the Secretariat report on the difficulties troop-contributing countries faced in complying with rapid deployment requirements, so that the recommendations for overcoming them could be discussed at the next session of the Special Committee.

15. The multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations reflected the complexity of the conflicts involved. Peacekeeping should be seen not as an isolated intervention but as part of a process ranging from conflict prevention to promotion of internal political dialogue, humanitarian assistance, furtherance of human rights, institutional capacity-building, and post-conflict reconstruction of peace through economic and social development. Many multidisciplinary functions were involved: maintenance of security, civil defence humanitarian assistance and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. The role to be played by the civilian police and other civilian officials, who could be very helpful in post-conflict reconstruction, needed to be better defined. Peacekeeping training in particular must be improved, and Brazil was encouraged by the various Secretariat activities being carried out in that area.

16. **Mr. Niculescu** (Romania) said that misconduct by peacekeeping personnel only compounded the suffering of a traumatized local population. As part of the necessary zero tolerance policy for any departure from the code of conduct, a useful first step would be to attach an ombudsman to each United Nations mission to hear any local complaints; Member States could then discharge their responsibility for the conduct of their national contingents.

17. The safety and security aspects of peacekeeping missions had been constructively addressed in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Scope of Legal Protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. Solutions of the kind recommended by the Secretary-General should be put into effect.

18. Romania endorsed the work being done by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop standardized generic training modules, and welcomed the useful training seminars held in various regions. Bilateral training arrangements between potential troop-contributing countries had proved useful, and a regional approach would be worth considering.

19. To further the progress already made on mainstreaming a gender perspective in peacekeeping

operations, the senior level gender focal points should be appointed to United Nations missions. The declining participation of women in peacekeeping operations needed to be reversed. Furthermore, in conflict situations, the special needs of women and children had to be addressed, and special advisers on the matter should be assigned, where appropriate, to peacekeeping operations.

20. The presence of civilian police in specific peacekeeping operations had become essential, and the Secretariat should continue drafting rules and procedures for their participation, in close consultation with Member States.

21. The signing of memoranda of understanding prior to the deployment of any national contingents to peacekeeping missions was needed in order to ensure the timely reimbursement of the troop-contributing States. The Secretariat should find a way to make regular payments for personnel from the first month of a mission and should calculate an early equipment reimbursement payable at the end of the first six months.

22. The valuable experience of the Standby High Readiness Brigade should be shared, so that multinational brigades could be set up in future peacekeeping operations.

23. Romania — which was currently contributing military observers, special police units and civilian police to seven ongoing missions — intended to continue to be a contributor to peacekeeping operations.

24. **Ms. Pęksa-Krawiec** (Poland), paying tribute to all military and civilian United Nations peacekeeping personnel who had lost their lives for the cause, welcomed the progress made in strengthening the United Nations rapid deployment capacity, its planning and management of peace operations and the standardization of training for peacekeepers.

25 Poland would in the near future be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Standby Arrangements System, and would be deploying one mechanized battalion to the Standby High Readiness Brigade. The use of strategic deployment stocks to support complex peacekeeping missions, together with rapid deployment and clear pre-mandate commitment authority, would significantly enhance the ability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to launch timely peace missions. Further efforts were needed regarding the on-call lists and the standardization of logistics procedures, but the Department had prepared a useful handbook on standard operating procedures.

26. There should be greater cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations in the areas of peacekeeping, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction, in order to avoid duplication.

27. Multifunctional peace operations required military observers, police and civilian experts, and Poland was continuing to improve its own internal procedures for the recruitment, training and deployment of such personnel, including special police units, disarmament experts, humanitarian workers, judges, border guards and administrative advisers. Currently, it was fielding a special police unit in Kosovo and would soon be contributing to the police operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It had, moreover, recently organized a regional course on civilian-police training with the participation of five Central European countries.

28. On the question of a gender perspective, it was a welcome fact that the role of women in peacekeeping and peace-building had expanded in the past two years. The gender advisers and child protection advisers currently appointed to some missions would help them work successfully.

29. The safety and security of peacekeeping personnel was a matter of the utmost priority. There should be a further comprehensive review of the effectiveness of measures ensuring their security, particularly in observer missions. United Nations forces should be able to defend themselves and all mission components under more robust rules of engagement; that would not be the same as the enforcement of peace, but would include all the peaceful means encompassed in the definition of self-defence under the Charter of the United Nations.

30. Aware of the paramount importance of troop contributions, Poland had joined the ongoing anti-terrorist operations in Afghanistan and continued its long-standing engagement in the Balkans and the Middle East, and it stood ready to continue to contribute to the cause of peace and security.

31. **Mr. Jalang'o** (Kenya) noted recent peacekeeping successes in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia/Eritrea and East

Timor. His Government had contributed troops to numerous peacekeeping operations and had been active in efforts for the peaceful settlement of disputes in Africa. He was, however, concerned about the level of United Nations commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa.

32. Despite recognition at the Millennium Summit of the need to maintain international peace and security, particularly in Africa, and the Security Council's commitment to giving equal priority to all regions of the world, with particular attention to the needs and characteristics of Africa, follow-up had been disappointing. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, deployment during the different phases of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been slow and had failed to fill the security vacuum created by the withdrawal of foreign troops, leading to renewed ethnic clashes in the eastern part of the country. During consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council, Member States had aired concerns about such security vacuums, the inability of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to police the entire country and the need for United Nations assistance. The Organization must address that problem urgently in order to guarantee the peace process and avoid another human catastrophe. In the Sudan and Somalia, a strong commitment on the part of the United Nations and the international community was likewise necessary to guarantee the success of peace talks and achieve reconciliation and a lasting solution.

33. Despite recent efforts to improve and accelerate reimbursement of troop costs and process contingent-owned equipment claims, delays in reimbursement and cash flow problems continued. It was essential that all Member States should meet their Charter obligations and pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Priority should be given to developing countries, particularly troop-contributing countries close to the mission area, for procurement of goods and services to support peacekeeping operations. Suppliers from those countries should be encouraged to offer goods and services to the United Nations.

34. He expressed concern that a situation seemed to be developing where troops were contributed by developing countries while the commanders were from the developed countries, and stressed that positions such as Force Commander, Deputy Force Commander and Chief of Staff should be reserved for contingents with a sizeable troop contribution. Although encouraged by efforts to activate the United Nations standby arrangements system, he said further consultations with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were necessary to deal with the financial and logistical difficulties faced by troop-contributing countries.

35. He welcomed recent interest expressed by the United Nations and the group of eight major industrialized countries (G-8) in enhancing African peacekeeping capacity and looked forward to the long-delayed establishment of a working group on that issue, which must proceed on an urgent basis. His delegation also supported any effort to strengthen the protective legal regime for United Nations personnel. Host nations must in particular agree to make attacks against United Nations personnel crimes punishable by law.

36. **Mr. Heaton** (New Zealand) said that considerable progress had been made in improving the effectiveness of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Major changes were under way and in the future there should be greater focus on operations in the field. His delegation supported the Department's intention to focus on six outstanding issues: rapid deployment; enhancing African peacekeeping capacity; training; security reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; comprehensive rule of law strategies in the peacekeeping context; and best practices.

37. It was important, however, not to overlook such issues as staffing of key posts, clarification of both internal and external command and control of peace operations, increased transparency, safety and security of personnel and achieving at least minimal gender capacity, including the need for a gender adviser in the Department.

38. The Force Generation and Military Personnel Service's efforts to amend the standby arrangements system also needed to be followed up so as to reflect the recommendations of Member States. The importance of such efforts to improve efficiency must be clearly explained to the Fifth Committee.

39. The policy paper on command and control distributed in October 2001 should be examined in more detail by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Secretariat in order to clarify nuances and ensure that all parties fully understood the levels of authority and responsibility. The joint

meetings to improve transparency and coordination between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries were also most welcome. Similarly, more informal briefings by the Secretariat to keep troop-contributing countries informed should be held.

40. His delegation supported the development of rule-of-law strategies to facilitate the transition from peacekeeping to nation-building, as well as such initiatives as the partnership programme on peace-building and rule of law between the United Nations Association of the United States and Harvard University, and looked forward to distribution of the report of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security task force to develop rule-of-law strategies for peace operations. The Organization should work with national actors to ensure a robust transition to nation-building as the best guarantor of regional and international peace and security. He also joined with the representative of Jordan in stressing that peacekeepers must observe an acceptable code of conduct; Member States must ensure that personnel provided for peacekeeping duties were trained to the required levels.

41. **Mr. Strømmen** (Norway) said the seminar sponsored by his Government commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to be held at Headquarters on 29 October, would provide a timely opportunity to review lessons learned and reflect on the more fundamental challenges facing peacekeeping operations. Peace-building, for example, was a key component of efforts to deal with contemporary conflicts and he supported broadening the mandate of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to include peace-building. At the operational level a number of missions had contained both peacekeeping and peace-building elements and that new complexity needed to be reflected in policy discussions.

42. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes illustrated the complexities of current peace operations because they contained both military and civilian components: troops and early planning and funding arrangements. Planning and funding problems had often caused setbacks in efforts to normalize the situation in conflict areas and he stressed the need to include disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the early planning undertaken by the Integrated Mission Task Force. He also believed that the initial reintegration measures for demobilized troops should be funded through assessed contributions.

43. A seminar bringing together representatives of relevant actors involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration had been organized by his Government in Oslo earlier in 2002, with a follow-up planned for January 2003, with a view to establishing a pool of personnel for United Nations operations. While such initiatives would strengthen operational capacity, there was a need for greater strategic guidance and support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

44. His delegation also supported the establishment of a gender focal point in the Department, and welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's emphasis on security-sector reform and rule-of-law strategies, which would require an innovative approach to improving coordination between military and development bodies while at the same time respecting existing roles and mandates. He also looked forward to the Best Practices Unit being fully staffed and operational by the end of 2002, and said troop-contributing countries should be involved in the identification of best practices.

45. His Government attached great importance to strengthening regional approaches to conflict management and, given the particular challenges in Africa, had focused its efforts on the development of peacekeeping and peace-building capacity in southern Africa through the training-for-peace programme since 1995. It remained committed to harmonizing bilateral efforts in that field. He welcomed the establishment of the new mechanism for consultation between the Council and troop-contributing countries, which must be fully implemented and further improved to make future meetings even more substantive and dynamic.

46. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) noted with appreciation the decision to award the Dag Hammarskjold medal to peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the service of the United Nations.

47. He welcomed progress made on the issue of strategic development stocks as well as the elaboration of a new inventory-management system to be installed at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, and urged the Department to ensure fair geographical distribution of posts for those new systems. He expressed grave concern that, although the developing countries contributed the bulk of troops for United

Nations missions, they had not yet received their fair share of senior appointments, and wondered whether that was due to lack of confidence in contributing-country officers or favouritism towards the developed countries.

48. He noted for example that an officer from the developed world had been appointed to command the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea despite the fact that his country had contributed no troops, and requested that the Department should justify his appointment. Furthermore, the last five military advisers had all been from the developed world, and he felt it was time to give consideration to officers from the developing countries and wondered whether that post should be rotated among the regional groups. He also strongly supported increased gender capacity in the Department and noted that there were many capable female officers in the developing countries, including Zambia, who deserved consideration.

49. He appealed for adequate funding to complete the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The improved situation in the latter had brightened the prospects for peace and was an opportunity which should not be missed, and he called for full implementation of Phase III of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

50. **Mr. Beyendeza** (Uganda) supported the cause of peacekeeping and paid tribute to those who had given their lives in the service of the United Nations. In that context, he recalled that while there had been many successful missions, others had been disastrous, owing in large part to problems associated with delays in deployment and prevention.

51. Successful missions had enjoyed rapid allocation of resources and prompt deployment. Unsuccessful missions had been characterized by delays, leading to aggravation of the situation and increased suffering. He therefore stressed the need for the Security Council and the international community to act decisively and promptly and deploy adequate resources to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

52. It was also important to prevent conflicts by identifying and addressing the root causes: poor economic development, proliferation of small arms, ethnic clashes and poverty. There was a definite link between peace and development, and existing mechanisms to promote democracy, good governance and the rule of law should be strengthened. Resources should be mobilized, political support provided and preventive action taken in a timely fashion in order to promote sustainable peace and durable institutions in situations where instability prevailed. Such efforts would contribute to the success of peacekeeping operations and create a framework for sustainable peace in conflict situations.

53. **Ms. Ognjanovac** (Croatia) said that Croatia fully supported the recommendations of the Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and was committed to their implementation. It also supported the reform of the existing relations among the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council in the context of peacekeeping operations, and welcomed the beginning of that process in the Economic and Social Council's involvement in post-conflict management in Africa and in the strengthened consultation of the Economic and Social Council with the Security Council.

54. Croatia was currently participating in peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Kashmir, and, with a view to intensifying its participation, was taking steps to develop the appropriate government policies and decision-making. Besides developing its own military units for participation in peacekeeping operations, Croatia was also open to joint participation in such operations with other States.

55. The Government had recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to the United Nations standby arrangements system, under which it would make available over 100 military observers, officers, weapons experts and police personnel, most of whom would be placed on the on-call list. Croatia would continue to support efforts to strengthen the military-expertise capabilities of the Department. It was also participating in the development of standardized generic training modules, with special emphasis on the implementation of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes. Intensive preparations were proceeding in that regard at the International Military Operations Centre in Zagreb, involving training programmes for staff officers, military observers and civilian-military cooperation. Croatia intended to make the Centre available for participants from other States as well.

56. **Mr. Bozay** (Turkey) noted with satisfaction the recent achievements in enhancing the capacities of peacekeeping operations on the basis of the Brahimi report. He called for additional concrete steps to be taken to enhance the rapid-deployment capacity — to that end, Turkey had joined the United Nations standby arrangements system and the military on-call list — and welcomed the realization of the strategic deployment stocks concept. In addition, he called for enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat and the Member States, with special attention to the logistics dimension of rapid deployment, and looked forward to receiving information on the new inventory-management system during the next session of the Special Committee.

57. Welcoming the proposed formation of coherent brigade-sized forces, especially those composed of troops from countries in the same geographical region, he cited the successful example of the South-Eastern Europe Brigade, a recently formed multinational peace force that stood ready for cooperation within the United Nations framework. He also expressed Turkey's support for increasing the capacity of the Civilian Police Division and for creating an on-call list for civilian police.

58. Recalling the vital importance of training for the success of peacekeeping operations, he welcomed the ongoing development of standardized generic training modules. He said that Turkey had established its own training centre in Ankara under the Partnership for Peace programme, and was ready to use it as a means of enhancing the training capacity for United Nations peacekeeping. Turkey also welcomed efforts to develop training capacities within peacekeeping missions themselves.

59. There was a need for a thorough analysis of the rule of law dimension of peacekeeping operations; it was vital for the United Nations to consult much more closely with the authorities in the countries concerned so as not to impose a particular rule-of-law modality on them.

60. Over the previous half century, Turkey had taken part in peacekeeping operations in many places around the world, most recently in Afghanistan with the International Security Assistance Force, and remained willing to share the experience gained in those operations with all countries wishing to benefit from it.

61. **Mr. Jaiswal** (India) said that India's participation in peacekeeping reflected its commitment to the strengthening of the United Nations system and international peace and security. To date, India had contributed over 58,000 troops to peacekeeping operations in a number of missions worldwide. Although over 100 Indian peacekeepers had died in the line of duty, India's sense of obligation remained unwavering.

62. The latest report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/56/863) showed that the Committee continued to offer practical recommendations for peacekeeping operations. India had been involved in the mechanism for strengthening cooperation among the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, which still required further work. Periodic, sustained and meaningful interaction with troop-contributing countries was more likely to have a positive impact on the decisions of the Security Council.

63. India supported the recommendation in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) with respect to the deployment of peacekeeping operations within 30 or 90 days after the adoption of a mandate, depending on the complexity of operations. In support of efforts to develop the concept of a generic mission headquarters, India had pledged a brigade and 60 officers for the on-call list. With regard to the deployment of civilian police, he believed Member States should formulate innovative approaches to enable more effective deployment. India would continue to cooperate with other States and the Secretariat to that end.

64. The build-up of strategic deployment stocks to equip the Secretariat for complex missions, by pre-positioning equipment at the Logistics Base at Brindisi, would undoubtedly be beneficial to a large number of troop-contributing countries which were unable to deploy fully equipped and self-sustained troops. The timely availability of strategic air- and sea-lift capabilities was critical to the success of rapid deployment and would better serve the cause of peacekeeping.

65. H noted progress in the development of standardized generic training modules. Global norms for peace operations, ideally developed by the United Nations in consultations with Member States, should be acceptable to and achievable by all States and

international organizations. India was pleased to host an international course, in collaboration with the Training and Evaluation Service of the Department, for emerging troop-contributing countries. The course would provide an excellent opportunity for sharing experiences and understanding the various facets of United Nations peacekeeping.

66. His delegation was encouraged to note that the process for reimbursing expenditures and equipment was under improvement, as unpaid costs created a tremendous strain for developing countries. In its case, India was owed approximately $65 million.

67. His Government welcomed efforts to enhance the peacekeeping capacity of African countries, and the transparency that had characterized recent appointments to the Department. However, the disproportionately high percentage of developing countries as troop contributors was untenable. The lack of political will among some Member States detracted from the universal character of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Those States also lay themselves open to charges of maintaining double standards by being willing to contribute to operations in Europe but reluctant to do so in Africa. Apart from the political aspect, there was the question of capacity. India was prepared to engage in frank discussion of that issue at the next session of the Special Committee and looked forward to continued dialogue with other Member States.

68. **Mr. Vankham** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) recalled the need for strict observance of the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity in all peacekeeping operations, as well as the perennial importance of the basic principles of peacekeeping, namely the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence. Considerable progress had been made in achieving a rapid-deployment capacity, largely thanks to the $140 million approved by General Assembly resolution 56/292 for the creation of strategic deployment stocks. His delegation supported efforts to achieve a deployment capacity within 30 days, or 90 days for complex emergencies, and endorsed plans to enhance the United Nations standby arrangements system and develop the concept of generic mission headquarters.

69. He urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in order to facilitate timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries. The standardized generic training modules and the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were welcome developments, though the Best Practices Unit must be provided with adequate staffing. Pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions, further steps should be taken to improve the representation of under-represented and unrepresented Member States in the Department. He also called for developed countries to show greater commitment to peacekeeping operations by contributing more troops.

70. **Mr. Scott** (Australia) welcomed the progress made in implementing the recommendations in the Brahimi report, particularly with regard to the enhanced planning and management of peacekeeping operations, the increased speed of deployment and the trend towards realistic mandates, backed up by adequate resources. However, fresh ideas were needed to ensure that the Committee, as well as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, continued to play a useful role in the ongoing reforms. He warned against the Committee's becoming too preoccupied with the review of details of the report, and thus failing to see the bigger picture. The Committee should provide broad guidelines and advice, without adding to the burden of paperwork or adopting new recommendations before existing ones were implemented. Such an approach would allow the Special Committee to work creatively and cooperatively with the Secretariat. For its part, the Secretariat should consider periodically, and certainly ahead of substantive sessions of the Special Committee, on which key issues it would value guidance from the Special Committee.

71. A number of refinements were needed in the management and conduct of peacekeeping operations. Shortcomings with regard to recruitment and succession planning in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had led to several gaps in crucial positions, eroding the Department's ability to respond to fresh challenges. Enhanced coordination between conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building activities should become a major consideration for the Special Committee. In particular, a successful transition from peacekeeping to post-conflict recovery depended on the level of support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It would be useful to learn from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the

Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) whether they were comfortable with the current doctrine and guidance they received on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and whether they would appreciate further assistance from the Special Committee. His delegation supported a more holistic approach concerning the rule of law and administration of justice, and the vacancy in the D-2 post for a police adviser continued to restrict progress on civilian-police matters. The Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit must be adequately staffed and empowered to contribute actively to peacekeeping planning and management.

72. In the context of work being done in the Sixth Committee concerning the scope of legal protection of United Nations personnel, the Special Committee should take note of the recommendation that key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel should be incorporated into status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host-country agreements. In the longer term, it should also consider the "declaration of risk" requirement in article 1 (c) (ii) of the Convention, which arbitrarily denied legal protection to the majority of United Nations operations.

73. **Mr. Ayudhaya** (Thailand) said that the universality and impartiality of the United Nations were fundamental to its work in the maintenance of international peace and security. Multilateral action was the only viable approach to resolving volatile conflict situations. While he welcomed the development of standard training materials and courses by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which would enable troops to be better prepared for peacekeeping tasks, efforts should also be focused on in-mission training. In that context, his country had co-hosted the first United Nations Training Assistance Team/Mission Training Cell Officers Course in September 2002.

74. Given the importance of rapid deployment to mission success, it was encouraging to note the strengthening of the United Nations standby arrangements system. Nevertheless, the commitment of Member States as well as adequate material and financial support remained crucial for eventual success. He asked for greater transparency in the recruitment of personnel to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, particularly with regard to senior appointments. His country attached great importance to the timely reimbursement of troop costs and contingent-owned equipment. While he welcomed improvements in that regard, he urged Member States to pay assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions, in order to avoid unfair burdens on troop-contributing countries. It would also be useful to hear of progress made in processing death and disability compensation claims. The safety and security of peacekeepers remained a matter of considerable concern. Consequently, the capacity of the Secretariat to conduct risk assessments needed to be strengthened, and the relevant information disseminated swiftly to prospective troop-contributing countries. Precautionary measures and guidelines should be drawn up to provide peacekeepers with the tools to evaluate and conduct their work safely.

75. The United Nations should cooperate with regional organizations and countries willing to engage in peacekeeping efforts, by finding ways and means to facilitate their participation. It should attach more importance to public information, by fostering closer links between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information. Successful missions were contingent on public support at the international and local levels. Lastly, he recalled that peacekeeping was only a last resort when initiatives to address the root causes of conflict failed.

76. **Mr. Khalid** (Pakistan) reiterated Pakistan's support for Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and other measures and mechanisms established for strengthening cooperation between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. He further called for the development of an integrated approach in planning and management, involving troop-contributing countries as integral stakeholders at each stage of peacekeeping operations. If the restoration of peace and stability was to be achieved through bolstering economies, donors should honour their pledges for reconstruction and recovery. He therefore appealed to donors to carefully assess their potential contribution to peace-building before making pledges; and once made, those pledges should be converted to disbursable funds at the earliest.

77. In developing exit strategies for future missions, the Security Council resolution which originally mandated the respective mission must be fully implemented, and objective criteria on the basis of which the operation had been mandated must be

achieved. Failure to adhere to either of those principles would defeat the purpose of the mission.

78. The pitfalls of undertaking half-hearted peacekeeping operations were enormous. He related the experience of Jammu and Kashmir which, in his opinion, illustrated the international community's failure to fulfil its commitment to the people of that region. No sustained effort had been made by the United Nations to resolve the root causes of the conflict. The international community must demonstrate sufficient political will to prevent a conflict in South Asia and to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

79. He paid tribute to the peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the cause of peace and in the service of the United Nations. Pakistan was pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution on the declaration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, and was committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

80. **Mr. Ouologuem** (Mali) said that Mali remained committed to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Malian military officers and civilian police had participated in a number of such missions, particularly in Africa. His Government had also underwritten and regularly made resources available to the United Nations standby arrangements system.

81. Mali fervently hoped that Security Council consultations with troop-contributing countries would take their concerns into account in its decision-making. The recent action taken by the African Union for the establishment of the Council of Peace and Security represented an important step in creating a collective-security and rapid-alert system. Mali had already taken steps to ratify the establishing protocol.

82. Mali urged the strengthening of the capacities of regional mechanisms and supported the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa as a coordination mechanism with other subregional partners in the areas of conflict prevention and peace-building. His Government also supported the Special Committee's recommendation to create the post of Director of Management in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

83. **Mr. Elashhi** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the African continent had suffered the most from civil and regional wars. His delegation welcomed the success achieved in some African countries, such as Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea. It welcomed also the fact that the Security Council was paying more attention to the African region and had established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, which was playing an important peacekeeping role. Financial assistance should be provided for similar organizations so that they could fully assume their role.

84. His delegation commended the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/56/863) and that of the Secretary-General (A/56/732) concerning strengthening Africa's ability to keep peace. It welcomed the suggestion in paragraph 39 of document A/56/863 for the establishment of a second logistics base for strategic stocks in Africa. It recommended the establishment of a liaison office at the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa, similar to the one planned for Brussels, and of a mechanism for coordination between the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Africa. It recommended also a better coordination between the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, the administration of peacekeeping operations and the African Union with regard to peacekeeping efforts and to finding appropriate ways to train African troops. It urged a careful examination of requests from African countries for establishing peacekeeping forces and providing them with material and logistical support, as in central Africa.

85. The Security Council had also a great responsibility for securing peace in the occupied Palestinian territories. It had utterly failed to prevent the daily massacres committed by the occupying forces and the siege imposed on a whole population. Its resolutions had not succeeded in stopping the occupation of Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories. The continued occupation might well breed more fanaticism and violence.

86. **Mr. Al-Otaibi** (Kuwait) said that peacekeeping operations played a vital role in defusing tensions, and noted that current missions were different from previous ones in that they provided humanitarian

assistance, monitored human rights violations, undertook police duties and assisted in the building of State institutions. Those operations were essential for the maintenance of international peace and security.

87. There were still some pending issues to be addressed in order to reinforce peacekeeping operations. There was a need to identify clearly the objectives and command structure of all operations and to strengthen coordination between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries, so that it included the various phases of peacekeeping operations. The role of the United Nations in terms of early warning and preventive diplomacy should be reinforced. It was also necessary to have Member States comply with Article 17 of the Charter by assuming the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, while taking into consideration the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council. Training needs should also be addressed comprehensively.

88. The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), established in 1991, had been welcomed by Kuwait. That mission had contributed greatly to reducing tension on the border, leading to more security and stability; however, Iraq's non-compliance with Security Council resolutions was a matter of concern. In 1993, Kuwait had voluntarily assumed two thirds of the UNIKOM budget so as to alleviate any financial difficulties. Kuwait had also financed other peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, Kuwait had provided UNIKOM with various civil and military facilities. Kuwait had also built close working relations with UNIKOM commanders and troops, featuring continuing coordination, including the establishment of a liaison office.

89. **Mr. Hussein** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and his staff to address structural deficiencies, in view of the limited resources available for the expanding mandate of peacekeeping missions. It was a timely response to the multi-dimensional role of United Nations peacekeepers, which ranged from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to institution-building in post-conflict societies.

90. The establishment of a triangular partnership involving the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat would help to enhance cooperation, but needed to be further strengthened. Moreover, the consent of the concerned party and the impartiality of the peacekeepers had to be strictly observed.

91. Misconduct among peacekeepers, particularly by the political and military leadership, was a growing threat to the Organization's credibility and efficiency. Partiality, politicization of local issues and misinformation were bound to fuel misunderstanding.

92. Ethiopia welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's initiative to develop disciplinary regulations to punish persons accused of gross misconduct, who should be amenable to the jurisdiction of the host country or the contributing country. The scope should, however, be expanded to encompass misconduct by leaders of peacekeeping operations, and there should be frank dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat on that delicate and complex issue.

93. Ethiopia also supported efforts to create specific training programmes and standardized generic training modules. Short-term regional training for civilian police and military officers needed to be further strengthened and expanded to meet pre-deployment needs. As an emerging troop-contributing country, Ethiopia noted with great satisfaction that regional seminars had been conducted by the Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

94. However, there was greater need for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations for the maintenance of international peace and security. Ethiopia therefore attached great importance to collaboration with the African Union, particularly in the areas of training and information exchange. His Government was pleased to learn that the Secretariat had extended assistance to enhance the early-warning system of the African Union. However, much remained to be done with regard to capacity-building in the Union, with a view to strengthening its mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

95. As a founding Member of the United Nations, Ethiopia wished to reaffirm its faith in the maintenance of international peace and security. It had enthusiastically participated in missions in Asia and Africa under the United Nations banner and remained committed to a continued role in the maintenance of peace and security.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.